

Application Number 09/781,605
Amendment dated 8 June 2006
Reply to Office Action of 8 December 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (new): A computer-implemented method for automatically providing an updated portable optical disk to a patient having the patient's medical record recorded thereon, the method comprising:

- providing a database management server having an optical disk writer;
- connecting the database management server to a medical records archive of a healthcare service center, the healthcare service center having various modalities for capturing patient images and other related patient medical records and for storing them in the archive;
- causing the archive to automatically transfer to the database management server updated patient images and other related medical records for a specified patient;
- identifying the patient's images and other related medical records using a unique patient identifier to control access and patient privacy;
- using the unique patient identifier, causing the optical disk writer to automatically record on a portable optical disk the patient's updated images and related medical records;
- automatically customizing the portable optical disk with promotional or educational information specific to the healthcare service center and related to the type of the personal medical data recorded on the disk;
- formatting the information on the disk to be viewable in a uniformly accessible manner; and
- automatically labeling the portable optical disk using robotics technology.

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Claim 21 (new): The method of Claim 20, wherein the updated patient images and other related medical records are transferred between the archive and the database management server in an HIPAA-compliant mode.

Claim 22 (new): The method of Claim 20, wherein the promotional or educational information specific to the healthcare service center comprises text, image, audio and video data.

Claim 23 (new): The method of Claim 20, wherein the various modalities for capturing patient images includes a modality selected from the group consisting of an x-ray machine, a magnetic resonance imaging device and a computed tomography device.

Claim 24 (new): The method of Claim 20, wherein the promotional or educational information specific to the healthcare service center includes a hyperlink to a web page associated with the healthcare service center.

Claim 25 (new): The method of Claim 20, further comprising using the portable optical disk at a second healthcare service center to prevent repetitious registration processes at the second healthcare service center.

Claim 26 (new): The method of Claim 20, wherein the updated patient images are stored on the portable optical disk in digital imaging and communications in medicine ("DICOM") format.

Claim 27 (new): The method of Claim 20, wherein the updated patient images are stored on the portable optical disk in digital imaging and communications in medicine ("DICOM") format, and wherein a DICOM viewer is stored on the portable optical disk.

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Claim 28 (new): The method of Claim 20, wherein the portable optical disk label includes the unique patient identifier.

Claim 29 (new): A computer-implemented method for providing a portable optical disk to a patient having at least a portion of the patient's medical record recorded thereon and formatted to be viewable on a personal computer, the method comprising:

receiving patient data at a database management server, the patient data being received from a patient data system network of a healthcare center, wherein the patient data system network includes an imaging device for capturing an image of the patient and at least one or more of the following:

a hospital information system for storing the patient's medical history and personal data,

an image archive for storing images of the patient only in a format not viewable on a typical personal computer, and

a radiology information system for storing reports relating to the patient's images;

identifying the patient within the patient data system network with a unique identifier;

associating the unique identifier with the image of the patient;

automatically causing the image of the patient to be electronically downloaded from the imaging device to the database management server;

using the unique patient identifier, automatically searching the patient data system network for related patient data that is related to the image of the patient;

downloading the related patient data to the database management server;

automatically recording the patient's image and the related patient data on an optical disk using an optical disk writer that is in communication with the database management server;

adding to the optical disk (a) educational information customized to the patient, the patient's image, the related patient data, and (b) promotional information related to the healthcare center;

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formatting the information on the optical disk so as to be viewable on a typical personal computer; and

automatically labeling the optical disk for delivery to the patient using the unique patient identifier, whereby the patient may view his or her medical images and related data on a typical personal computer and also view the educational information and the promotional information.

Claim 30 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the image of the patient is recorded on the optical disk in digital imaging and communications in medicine ("DICOM") format.

Claim 31 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the image of the patient is recorded on the optical disk in digital imaging and communications in medicine ("DICOM") format, and wherein a DICOM viewer is recorded on the optical disk.

Claim 32 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the patient image and the related patient data is downloaded to the database management server in an HIPAA-compliant mode.

Claim 33 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the educational information comprises text, image, audio and video data.

Claim 34 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the promotional information includes information relating to the healthcare center.

Claim 35 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the promotional information includes a hyperlink to a web page associated with the healthcare center.

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Claim 36 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the imaging device is selected from the group consisting of an x-ray machine, a magnetic resonance imaging device and a computed tomography device.

Claim 37 (new): The method of Claim 29, further comprising using the portable optical disk at a second healthcare center to prevent repetitious registration processes at the second healthcare service center.

Claim 38 (new): The method of Claim 29, wherein the portable optical disk label includes the unique identifier.

Claim 39 (new): A computer-implemented method, comprising:
identifying at least one diagnostic image of a patient;
retrieving a medical report of the patient associated with the at least one diagnostic image;
identifying educational or promotional content associated with the patient medical report, said educational content suitable for consumption by the patient; and
storing the at least one diagnostic image, the medical report, and the educational or promotional content on a portable computer memory device together with executable software for displaying the at least one diagnostic image.

Claim 40 (new): The method of Claim 39, wherein the at least one diagnostic image, the medical report, and the educational or promotional content are stored on the portable computer memory device in digital imaging and communications in medicine ("DICOM") format.

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Claim 41 (new): The method of Claim 39, wherein the executable software is configured to view data stored in digital imaging and communications in medicine ("DICOM") format.

Claim 42 (new): The method of Claim 39, further comprising applying a label to the portable computer memory device, the label including a unique patient identifier associated with the patient.

Claim 43 (new): The method of Claim 39, wherein the at least one diagnostic image is stored in a first database, and the medical report is stored in a second database that is separate from the first database.